

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 2:

In one aspect the invention features a method and apparatus for efficient provisioning of a VT/TU cross-connect. The method includes checking a state of a control bit that specifies whether to assemble an output from multiple virtual tributary (VT1.5/VT2) or tributary unit (VT) connections or handle the output as a synchronous transport signal (STS) connection or an administrative unit (AV-3/AV-4) connection, and switching a predetermined number of entries together based on a state of the control bit.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 9:

One of more of the following features may also be included. The control bit is set ~~be~~ by a programmer. The method includes handling the output as an STS connection when the control bit is aset and assembling the output from multiple VT connections when the control bit is not set or vice versa. The method includes storing the control bit in a connection memory or in a register.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 4, line 27:

Referring to FIG. 2, a slice of the switching core 20 includes a connection random access memory (RAM) 28 capable of storing one binary bit (control bit 30) of information for every STS output of a VT switch device. Control bit 30 specifies whether the output is assembled from multiple VT connections or is treated as an STS connection. The switching core also includes a memory block 23 that contains one or more RAMs for switching data. Connection RAM 28 controls writing and reading of data into and out of memory block 23. The slice of the switching core 20 also includes other blocks to manage the switching of data. For example, the switching core 20 includes a swap control module 22, a read ~~access~~ address generator 24, and a write ~~access~~ address generator 26.